

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a first converter that subjects an image data to a low-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a first image data;

a second converter that subjects the first image data to a high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a second image data;

~~an arithmetic~~ a subtracting unit that subtracts ~~conducts an arithmetic operation to obtain a difference between the first image data and the second image data~~ from the image data to thereby generate a third image data;

a compressor that compresses the third image data to thereby generate a compressed image data; and

an embedding unit that embeds the compressed image data in the first image data to thereby generate an embedded image data;

a third converter that subjects the embedded image data to the high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a high resolution image data;

an extractor that extracts an embedded data from the embedded image data;

an embedding determiner that determines whether embedded data has been embedded in the image data;

a decompressor that decompresses the embedded data extracted by the extractor to thereby generate a decompressed image data; and

an adding unit that conducts adding operation by adding the high resolution image data to the decompressed image data,

wherein the adding unit conducts the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has been embedded in the image data, and wherein

the adding unit does not conduct the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has not been embedded in the image data.

Claim 2 -3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~
An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a first converter that subjects an image data to a low-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a first image data;

a second converter that subjects the first image data to a high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a second image data;

a subtracting unit that subtracts the second image data from the image data to thereby generate a third image data;

a compressor that compresses the third image data to thereby generate a compressed image data;

an embedding unit that embeds the compressed image data in the first image data to thereby generate an embedded image data;

a third converter that subjects the embedded image data to the high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a high resolution image data;

an extractor that extracts an embedded data from the embedded image data;

an embedding determiner that determines whether embedded data has been embedded in the image data;

a decompressor that decompresses the embedded data extracted by the extractor to thereby generate a decompressed image data; and

an adding unit that conducts adding operation by adding the high resolution image data to the decompressed image data,

wherein the adding unit conducts the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has been embedded in the image data, and wherein the adding unit does not conduct the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has not been embedded in the image data, and wherein the first conversion includes widening a time quantization width, and the second conversion includes narrowing the time quantization width.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~

An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a first converter that subjects an image data to a low-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a first image data;

a second converter that subjects the first image data to a high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a second image data;

a subtracting unit that subtracts the second image data from the image data to thereby generate a third image data;

a compressor that compresses the third image data to thereby generate a compressed image data;

an embedding unit that embeds the compressed image data in the first image data to thereby generate an embedded image data;

a third converter that subjects the embedded image data to the high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a high resolution image data;

an extractor that extracts an embedded data from the embedded image data;

an embedding determiner that determines whether embedded data has been embedded in the image data;

a decompressor that decompresses the embedded data extracted by the extractor to thereby generate a decompressed image data; and

an adding unit that conducts adding operation by adding the high resolution image data to the decompressed image data,

wherein the adding unit conducts the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has been embedded in the image data, and wherein the adding unit does not conduct the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has not been embedded in the image data, and wherein the embedding unit embeds the compressed image data in the image data using electronic watermark technology.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~

An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a first converter that subjects an image data to a low-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a first image data;

a second converter that subjects the first image data to a high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a second image data;

a subtracting unit that subtracts the second image data from the image data to thereby generate a third image data;

a compressor that compresses the third image data to thereby generate a compressed image data;

an embedding unit that embeds the compressed image data in the first image data to thereby generate an embedded image data;

a third converter that subjects the embedded image data to the high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a high resolution image data;

an extractor that extracts an embedded data from the embedded image data;

an embedding determiner that determines whether embedded data has been embedded in the image data;

a decompressor that decompresses the embedded data extracted by the extractor to thereby generate a decompressed image data;

an adding unit that conducts adding operation by adding the high resolution image data to the decompressed image data; and

~~further comprising~~ an outputting unit that outputs, as an image file in a predetermined format, the first image data in which the embedding unit has embedded the compressed image data,

wherein the adding unit conducts the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has been embedded in the image data, and wherein the adding unit does not conduct the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has not been embedded in the image data.

Claims 7-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of processing image data, the method being carried out by an image processing apparatus that transmits the image data processed to other apparatus, comprising:

generating an image data;

subjecting the image data to a low-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a first image data;

subjecting the first image data to a high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a second image data;

conducting an arithmetic operation to ~~obtain a difference between the first image data and~~ subtract the second image data from the image data to thereby generate a third image data;

compressing the third image data to thereby generate a compressed image data; and

embedding the compressed image data in the first image data to thereby generate an embedded image data;

subjecting the embedded image data to the high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a high resolution image data;

extracting embedded data from the embedded image data;

determining whether embedded data has been embedded in the image data;

decompressing the embedded data extracted by the extractor to thereby generate a decompressed image data; and

adding the high resolution image data to the decompressed image data when it has been determined that embedded data has been embedded in the image data, and wherein the adding is not conducted when it has been determined that embedded data has not been embedded in the image data.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium that records a computer program that makes a computer process an image data and transmit the image data processed to other apparatus, the computer program making the computer execute:

generating an image data;

subjecting the image data to a low-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a first image data;

subjecting the first image data to a high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a second image data;

conducting an arithmetic operation to ~~obtain a difference between the first image data and subtract~~ the second image data from the image data to thereby generate a third image data;

compressing the third image data to thereby generate a compressed image data; and

embedding the compressed image data in the first image data to thereby generate an embedded image data;

subjecting the embedded image data to the high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a high resolution image data;

extracting embedded data from the embedded image data;

determining whether embedded data has been embedded in the image data;

decompressing the embedded data extracted by the extractor to thereby generate a decompressed image data; and

adding the high resolution image data to the decompressed image data when it has been determined that embedded data has been embedded in the image data, and wherein the adding is not conducted when it has been determined that embedded data has not been embedded in the image data.

Claim 16 (Canceled)